



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

BCL

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/370,663 08/06/99 ABELOW

D 03058/004005

EXAMINER

LM01/0426

DAVID L FEIGENBAUM ESQ
FISH & RICHARDSON PC
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON MA 02110-2804

DIXON, T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2761
DATE MAILED:

04/26/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/370,663

Applicant(s)

ABELOW, DANIEL H.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

Art Unit

2761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 48-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 48-70 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 15) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 16) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 19) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2761

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 48-63, drawn to a commodity with a user interface for corresponding commodity, classified in class 705, subclass 1.
- II. Claims 64-70, drawn to an automated polling service, classified in class 379, subclass 69.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as automated calling without requiring the system of invention I. Invention I has separate utility such as data gathering for triggering the commodity to make a call, without the method of Invention II. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Invention II is a method of which performs polling of users of services, while the apparatus of Invention I performs a data gathering for use of a product and after a triggering event the product initiates the calls. The method of Invention II could be performed by a separate apparatus than that of Invention I. The subcombination has separate utility such as a method for polling users of any service from a central site.

Art Unit: 2761

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone call was made to David Feigenbaum on 19 April 2000 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.


Art Unit: 2761


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Voeltz can be reached on (703) 305-9714. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-9051 for regular communications and (703) 305-0040 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

TAD 
April 20, 2000


EDWARD R. COSIMANO
PRIMARY EXAMINER